

taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). There is constant interaction between French and Indian businessmen to enhance bilateral trade. With this objective a delegation of French businessmen visited India in October, 1991. The French Government would also be sponsoring trade and industry delegations to assess prospects of increased trade between the two countries.

[Translation]

Seizure of Ivory and Ivory Products

5030 DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of seizure of ivory and ivory products have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the states where such cases have come to light;

(d) whether the export and marketing of the seized ivory and ivory goods is permissible;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the quantity and the value of these items exported during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (f). The required information is being collected from various Departments of the Government and concerned field formations, and the compiled information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Spices

5031 DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of spices has decreased during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the value of loss of foreign exchange due to this;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of spices;

(d) whether the prices of spices produced in the country are very high; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to make them competitive in the international market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken by Spices Board for increasing the export of spices include sending delegations abroad arranging buyerseller meets participating in important international fairs & exhibitions promoting export of spices in value added forms such as spice oils & oleoresins consumer packed spices upgrading the quality of Indian spices Brand Promotion Logo promotion and other regular publicity measures.

(d) the prices of most of the spices produced in the country are high compared to the spices from other producing countries.

(e) For increasing the production and productivity of spices a Central Sector Scheme for integrated development of spices is being implemented in various states during 1991-92 with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores